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ABSTRACT

This annotated bibliography of selected sources introduces the novice genealogy researcher to the basic tools of this intriguing and popular pastime. With a focus on sources from and about Ireland, the bibliography presents print and electronic sources that will assist in researching family history as well as offer reviews of recent electronic developments that track and record genealogical research. Types of sources include: (1) Guides and Handbooks (14 items); (2) Dictionaries (3 items); (3) Atlas (1 item); (4) Directories (4 items); (5) Indexes (4 items); (6) Names (3 items); (7) Bibliographies (2 items); (8) Societies (2 items); (9) Electronic Genealogy (4 items); and (10) Web Sites (2 items). (EH)

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A Celtic Journey:
Selected Sources in Irish Genealogy

BY
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May 6, 1996

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A Celtic Journey:
Selected Sources in Irish Genealogy

What son or daughter or Ireland hasn't wondered what county or village their ancestors dwelled in? Who made that baptism gown or why do I have this innate desire to tinker? Is Aunt Moira right when she kids that I look just like her great- great-grandmother Ellen O'Hara in that old photograph?

This bibliography of selected sources will introduce the novice genealogy researcher to basic tools of this most intriguing and popular pastime. With a focus on sources from and about Ireland, the bibliography presents print and electronic sources that will assist in researching family history as well offering reviews of recent electronic developments that track and record genealogical research.

Guides And handbooks

Baxter, Angus. In Search of your British & Irish Roots: A complete guide to Tracing your English, Welsh, Scottish & Irish Ancestors. New York:William Morrow, 1982.

This is considered one of the top notch sources for Irish Genealogy! Baxter forewarns that his guide starts "over the Water" and that any genealogical search must begin with the searcher. This book includes the basics- starting the family tree, searching records and finally, preparing a family history. For Irish records he is clear to inform the reader of the difficult nature their search will take, due to a major fire in 1922. Written in familiar tones, this book is a must have. It includes country bibliographies and is indexed.

Colletta, John Philip. They Came in Ships: A Guide to Finding Your Immigrant Ancestor's Arrival Record. Salt Lake City:UT:Ancestry, 1993.

An excellent handbook that indexes hundreds of passenger lists that exist for all major Atlantic ports, as well as some Gulf and Pacific ports. The lists are in microfilm located at the National Archives. Important to note: indexing is by ship, so any knowledge of ship names or dates of arrival will be helpful. Includes bibliography with citation to national groups including the Irish.

Croom, Emily Anne. The Genealogist's Companion & Sourcebook. Cincinnati,OH: Betterway Books/F & W Publications, 1994.

Written by a librarian/genealogist, the focus of this intermediate level how-to sourcebook is on resources. Included are sources for records of immigration and naturalization, federal and state censuses, and genealogy booksellers, societies, and periodicals.

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_____. Unpuzzling Your Past: A Basic Guide to Genealogy. 2nd ed. Cincinnati,OH: Betterway Books/F & W Publications. 1989.

Croom's original guide offers how-to suggestions for getting organized in your first genealogical search. This is an easy read and one that will lead you through the process in an instructional manner.

Arlene Eakle and others. The Source: a guidebook of American Genealogy. Salt Lake City,UT:Ancestry, 1984.

While a bit dated, this piece is considered a gem for both beginners and experts alike. There are 700+ pages of useful information with how-to's to aid in the use of the many indexes, tables and bibliographies.

Eicholz, Alice. ed. Ancestry's Red Book: American State, County & Town sources. rev. ed. Salt Lake City, UT:Ancestry, 1992.

In an easy to use format, this book presents data on each of the fifty states. Organized in three sections, the first deals with information regarding a wide variety of records and sources. the second, a map of counties in each state, and the third a directory of addresses for each of the counties including coverage dates for records kept.

Greenwood, Val D. The Researcher's Guide to American Genealogy. 2nd ed. Baltimore, MD;Genealogical publishing Co., 1990.

Considered by some to the best single reference text for beginning genealogists, this book will introduce the novice to techniques for locating and analyzing genealogical records. Includes examples of search strategies as well as how to search actual records.

Grenham, John. Tracing Your Irish Ancestors: the complete guide. Baltimore,MD: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1993.

Grenham, a professional Irish genealogist from the Genealogical Office in Dublin, has written a book suitable for the beginner or the experienced researcher. It is divided in three parts and offers major sources, Narrower Sources, and a reference guide. A final listing of societies, repositories, and research services in Ireland is very useful.

Kemp, Thomas Jay. International Vital Records Handbook. 3rd ed. Baltimore,MD: Genealogical Publishing, 1994.

This is a collection of forms and instructions for obtaining certified documents relating to birth, death, marriage, divorce or adoption in the United States and 225 other countries. These are exact copies and include information on required

filing fees, and addresses for sending them off. A most useful and much needed source.

Jarboe, Betty M. Obituaries:A Guide to sources. 2nd ed. Boston:G.K. Hall, 1989.

Providing the names of over 3,500 sources for obituary information, this guide includes the United States, United Kingdom, and other international sources. Indexed by name of counties and towns as well as by serial title.

Lester, DeeGee. comp. Irish Research A Guide to Collections in North America, Ireland and Great Britain. New York:Greenwood Press, 1987.

This compilation provides access to materials that cover a wide variety of areas in Irish research, including sources regularly used by genealogists. Organized geographically by state, county and city, entries are alphabetized by repository. Thoroughly cross referenced and indexed, each entry includes purpose of the organization, resources available, special collections and services, as well as rules and fees of the repository.

Mitchell, Brian. comp. A Guide to Irish Churches and Graveyards. Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Publishing co., 1990.

Based on the Primary Valuation of Ireland,(1848-1864), this work identifies many of the churches and cemeteries in Ireland. Arranged alphabetically by county and parish, each church or cemetery is located exactly by Ordnancy Survey map number and the religious denomination. This is a companion to Mitchell's 1986, New Genealogical Atlas of Ireland.

Neagles, James C. The Library of Congress:A Guide to Genealogical and Historical Research. Salt Lake City, UT:Ancestry Publishing, 1990.

Readers are guided through the resources available at the Library Of Congress: catalogs, indexes, bibliographies and major finding aids for state, geographical, immigration and ethnic records are listed. Library of Congress call numbers accompany each title listed allowing researchers to focus on their interests.

Wright Raymond S. The Genealogist's Handbook: Modern Methods for Researching Family History. American Library Association, 1995

This book explains basic methodology and provides advice on evaluating sources and tools. There is an emphasis on family history and ethnic origins with discussion of understanding how ancestors influence contemporary life. Wright includes a thorough index and the bibliography is solid and up to date.

Dictionaries

Boylan, Henry. A Dictionary of Irish Biography. 2nd ed. New York:St. Martin's Press, 1988.

A revised edition of Boylan's 1978 work, this dictionary covers 1300 names and is thoroughly researched. Entries include names, birth and death dates, and a brief (2-3 column inches) overview , giving important facts and events of the person's life and occasionally a quotation by the person.

Drake, Paul. What Did They Mean by That? A Dictionary of Historical Terms for Genealogists. Bowie, MD:Heritage Books, 1994.

This dictionary covers many terms that over the course of history have disappeared from common usage. The brief but complete definitions are a great help to researchers and are equally interesting to the layman. The author includes *see* references and alternate spellings.

Hanks, Patrick, and Flavia Hodges. A Dictionary of Surnames. New York:Oxford University Press, 1988.

A scholarly source that is thoroughly researched, this book focuses primarily on surnames of the British Isles, It covers 75,000 names providing both The rootname and variants, as well as etymology and information on historical usage.

Atlas

Mitchell, Brian. A New Genealogical Atlas of Ireland. Baltimore, MD:Genealogical Publishing Co., 1986.

This atlas contains keyed and drawn black and white maps for use with Mitchell's 1990 Guide to Irish Churches and Graveyards. The purpose of the atlas is to locate major geographic administrative divisions: counties, baronies, civil parishes, dioceses, poor law unions and probate districts. The Smaller subdivisions can be found in the author's more recent work.

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Directories

Bentley, Elizabeth Petty. The Genealogist's Address Book. Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Publishing, 1991.

Bentley provides the reader with access to over 7,000 organizations and institutions that can help with genealogical research. Entries include address and telephone numbers, names of officials, editors, librarians, areas of interest, titles of publications, and hours of operation. The five parts of the book cover national organizations, state organizations, ethnic and religious organizations and research centers, special resources, and periodicals and newsletter.

Gibbs, Vicary and others. The Complete Peerage of England, Scotland, Ireland, Great Britain, and the United Kingdom: Extant, Extinct or Dormant. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1984.

These 13 volumes are valuable tools for the researcher of Irish genealogy. Information includes parentage, birth, honors, orders, offices, public services, politics, marriage, death and burial of every holder of a peerage at the time of publication.

Lainhart, Ann S. State Census Records. Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Publishing, 1992.

With Angus Baxter's warning to begin your genealogy search from contemporary time back, it is important to have access to national information. Lainhard provides state census information for 44 states. For each, the entries cover the current locations of print copies of the census with a description of what detailed information can be found in each.

Milner, Anita Cheek. Newspaper Genealogical Column Directory. 4th ed. Bowie, MD: Heritage Books, 1989.

Arranged by state, the author provides for each listing the byline, address, research area covered, which papers the column appears in, and the frequency of the column. Also included are some miscellaneous columns that cover specific, subjects including: Irish, Heraldry, and Surnames.

Indexes

Clegg, Michael B. and Curt B. Wicher, eds. PERiodical Source Index. Fort Wayne, IN:Allen county Public Library Foundation, 1992.

The 16 volume set produced by the Allen county Public Library is the result of a hugh effort to index the genealogical collection holdings of the library. This is one of the largest collections in the country and is a retrospective index of 2,000 periodicals that cover over 133 years.

Filby, William with Dorothy M. Lower, eds. Passenger and Immigration Lists index: A Guide to Published Arrival Records of More than 2,029,000 Passengers ... 1992 Supplement. Detroit:Gale, 1992.

The eleventh supplement of a series, this includes 125,000+ citation in more than 105 published passenger and naturalization lists. The lists are alphabetical by passenger and entries include age, port of arrival, year, and a code number that coordinates with a source citation. There is a list of sources indexed.

Library of Congress. Genealogies Cataloged by the Library of Congress Since 1986. with a List of Established Forms of Family Names and a List of Genealogies Converted to Microform Since 1983. Washington, D.C.:Cataloging Distribution Service, Library of Congress, 1992.

With the publication of this fifth volume researchers have access to the entirety of the collection,(over 31,000), of the family histories cataloged by the Library of Congress. This volume is divided into three sections, Genealogies Cataloged Since 1986, (8,997); Established Forms of Family Names, (10,000), and Genealogies Converted to Microform Since 1983. The introduction includes information on how to use the collection, warning that some titles can only be found at this Library. There is a list of short bibliographies available free of cost.

Meckler. Oral History Index An International Directory of Oral History Interviews. Westport, CT:Meckler, 1990.

This work is an alphabetical index to over 30,000 oral history transcripts held at almost 400 oral history centers. The first section includes an alpha listing by interviewee or group of interviews, with date of interview, keyword description of the subject of the interview and an alpha-numeric code to the appropriate center. The second section lists the alpha-numeric codes and in directory style, information on the oral history centers.

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Names

Coghlan, Ronan, Ida Grehan, and P.W. Joyce. Book of Irish names first, Family & Place
Names. New York:Sterling Publishing, Quality books, 1989.

The title of this work, written in three sections, explains its intent. Irish First Names provides derivatives and meaning of an extensive list of Celtic first names. Irish Family Names presents in depth historical information on 80 family names along with derivatives. Lastly, Irish Local Names Explained presents the anglicized version of the name, and its original meaning. There is an appendix of Irish root words commonly used.

MacLysaght, Edward. Irish Families Their Names, Arms, and Origins. Dublin:Irish Academic Press Limited, 1985.

The contents of this well respected work treat the origins and meanings of Irish surnames. It is a thorough piece, including eight appendices documenting the changes and distortions that history has brought to names. Full color illustrations of Irish family coats of arms make this a welcome source to browse.

Room, Adrian. Dictionary of Irish Place-Names. Boston:G.K. Hall, 1987.

Room's dictionary of iris place names provides a well organized alphabetical arrangement of geographic place names. It includes a bibliography and appendices which list prefixes and suffixes common in modern names, followed by the Gaelic root and meaning.

Bibliographies

Clegg, Michael Barren. ed. Bibliography of Genealogy and Local History Periodicals with Union List of Major U.S. Collections. Fort Wayne, IN :Allen County Public
Library Foundation, 1990.

This bibliography was designed to be a companion piece to the previously mentioned PERiodical Source Index. There are 5,400 entries arranged alphabetically each with its PERSI code, keyword, frequency, starting date, who has the title, and the address and ISSN number of the publication. There is a subject index arrangement organized by state, country, family name, or topic of interest.

Eager, allen R.. A Guide to Irish Bibliographical Material. Westport,CT:Greenwood Press, 1980.

This bibliography of bibliographies covers a myriad of topics related to

Ireland, imparticular there are six pages of information regarding genealogy, heraldry, family history, surnames, wills, births, deaths, flags and nobility.

Societies

The Heraldry Society of Ireland (HSI)
(Cumann Araltais na h Eireann)
San Elmo Vico Rd. Dorkey Dublin, Ireland

Founded in 1983, this society has 300 members from 17 countries that are interested in Irish heraldry and its tradition. The group encourages Irish clan rallies and offers guidance and research concerning family and place heraldry. The group has a library with holdings of 15,000 on subjects of interest to genealogists.

Irish Genealogical Research Society (IGRS)
c/O The Irish Club 83 Eaton Sq. London SW1W 9AJ, England

Founded in 1936 this group numbers 800 and promotes and encourages the study of Irish genealogy. Actively seeks alternative sources of information to replace those lost in the 1922 fire that ruined the Public Record Office in Dublin. Their library holdings number 5,000. They publish a semiannual newsletter, The Irish Genealogist.

Electronic genealogy

Bickford, Carolyn. "Family Ties." MacUser v.12 (Jan. 1996): 127-128.

Bickford reviews six software packages for use on a MacIntosh computer. Personal Ancestral File 2.1, Family Events 1.5, MacRoots II 1.6.5, Reunion!, Gene 4.0, and The Life History Disk. Price , performance, and productivity are covered.

Crowe, Elizabeth Powell. Genealogy Online researching your roots. New York. McGraw-Hill, 1994.

This guide to researching online sources reviews methods of electronic research including the Internet, Bulletin Boards, and commercial online services such as CompuServ and Prodigy. Included is a list of genealogical bulletin boards and a floppy disk.

Nichols, Elizabeth L. Genealogy in the computer Age: understanding FamilySearch. Salt Lake City,UT;Family History Educators, 1994.

The FamilySearch CD-Rom databases are produces by the Mormon Church. This

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book is a user friendly guide to access these CDS: the Ancestral File, the International Genealogical Index, and The Social Security Death Index. The International Genealogical Index is a world wide index of more than forty seven million names of deceased persons. This source is not to be overlooked.

Przecha, donna and Joan Lowrey. Guide to Genealogy Software. Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Publishing, 1993.

This work, by the founding members of a computer genealogy society, lists and evaluates 155 genealogy software programs. There is plenty of discussion on what to expect from the program, what equipment will be needed, system support, and how-to-do-it information. Above all it is a buying guide with pertinent information on the how much, how to, and what for, questions that researchers will want answered.

Web Sites

The Green Pages http://www.best.com/~paddynet/bin/db.cgi//home/ftpadmin/root/pub/pa

This web site is found via the Yahoo search engine. Here you will find links to Irish related Internet resources including Irish business web sites, individual home pages, news groups and many genealogy resources. More specifically:
Genealogical Guide to Ireland -based on John Grenham's book Tracing Your Irish Ancestors ,
Genealogical Research -Home Page for Genealogical Research in Ireland),
GenWeb - This database index contains links to all known genealogical databases searchable through the World Wide Web.

Irish Genealogy http://www.bess.tcd.ie/roots/prototyp/links.htm.

This site is found via the ALTA VISTA search engine. At present, it includes eleven links to sites dealing with Irish genealogical information, including the Irish national Archives and the Irish Family History Society, and The Irish Times.

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